1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

654 312 interest for use in clearing fields, for draining, and so on.

134 241 Estonian soil is not by nature particularly rich and fertile; its average humus content is only about three per cent. Only by thorough cultivation and use of suitable fertilizers can Estonia yield good crops. As a result, Estonia has developed a type of mixed farming suitable to her kind of soil. In the twentieth century Estonia has been spared from famines; through careful cultivation of grain types, especially by the adaptation of winter rye to the Estonian climate, Estonia has not had a complete crop failure either by frost or by droughts.

243 Types of Produce. Grain Production. Estonian farmers cultivate rye, wheat, barley, oats and mixed grains. Great efforts were made in

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

243 [439] independent Estonia to increase grain production, and with good results. Until 1933 Estonia had to import grain, but after this year she became self-sufficient and was even able to export some grain. The cultivation and consumption of [262] wheat increased considerably in the 1930 s. Formerly, rye bread was the chief staple in the Estonian diet, but in the second half of the independence period whole wheat and white bread started to compete with rye. The area under grain cultivation increased from 1929 to 1939 by 39 per cent, aided considerably by the 1930 law by which the government would buy surplus grain and maintain adequate prices for the farmers.

246 The production of fodder crops increased between the years 1919-39 as follows (according to number of hectares under cultivation):